JULY 1993
ISSUE #5

INSIDE

DEATHMATE RED

THIS BLOOD'S FOR YOU!

CYBERFORCE ™ AND © 1993 TOP COW PRODUCTIONS. ALL ARTWORK © TOP COW PRODUCTIONS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

CYBERFORCE #1

COMING YOUR WAY SEPTEMBER '93

image

INSIDE JULY

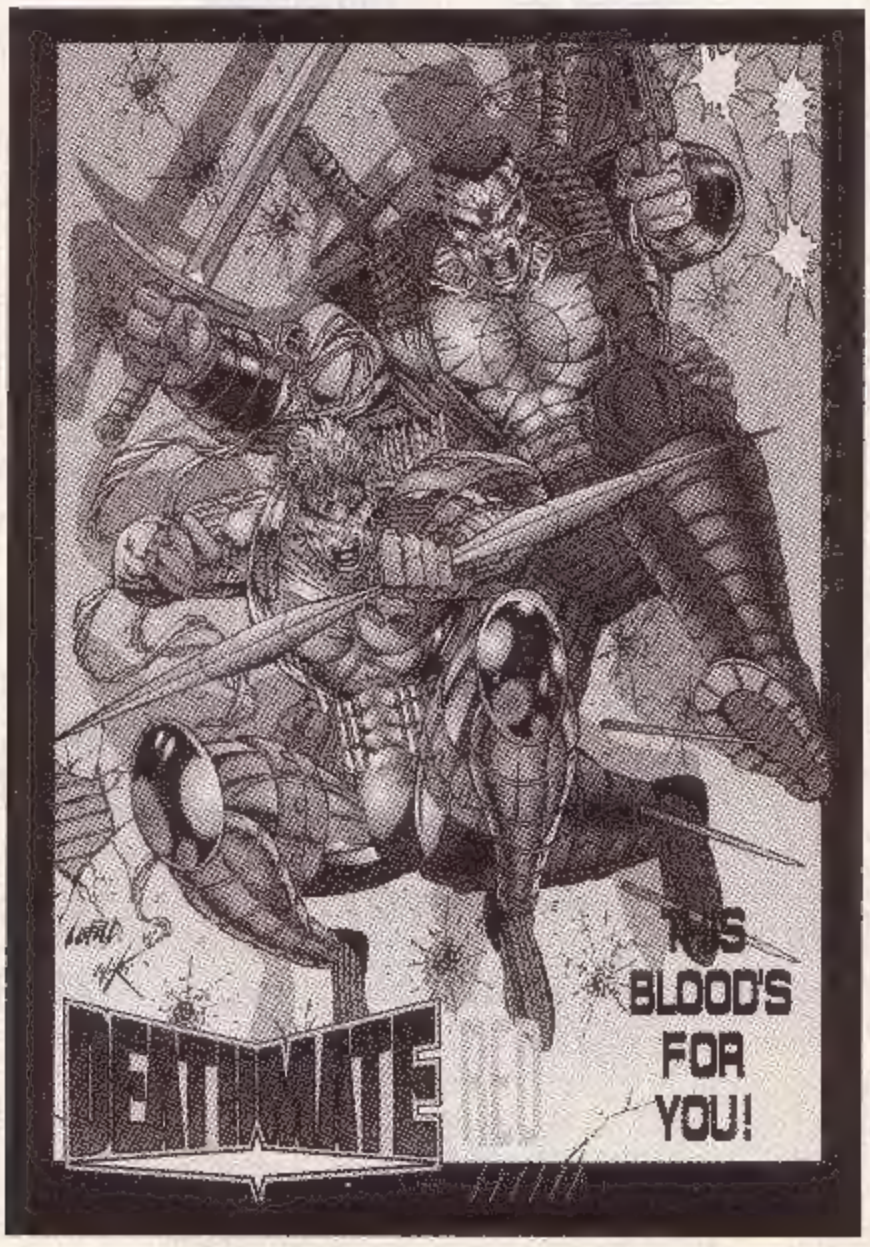
INTERVIEW:
DEATHMATE RED: ROB LIEFELD
P. 2-3

INTERVIEW:
SPAWN: TODD MCFARLANE
P. 6-7

TITLES FROM JULY 1993:
DEATHMATE RED #1 P. 4
SPAWN #15 P. 5
WILD C.A.T.S TRILOGY #2 P. 8
SAVAGE DRAGON #2 P. 9
SHAMAN'S TEARS #3 P. 10
STORMWATCH #4 P. 11
MAXX #5 P. 12
SHADOWHAWK POSTER #1 P. 13
SHADOWHAWK/
SAVAGE DRAGON POSTER #1 P. 14

ASK IMAGE P. 15-16

Cover Illustration:
Penciled by Rob Liefeld; Inks by Danny Miki;
Color by Steve Olif & Olyoptics



Editor: Tony Lobito
Production Manager: Marika Bristol
Production Coordinator: Kelly Van Landingham

Inside Image is published monthly by Image Comics, P. O. Box 25468, Anaheim, CA 92825.

Designed and produced by Kathy Murray.

YOUNGBLOOD™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Rob Liefeld. BLOODSHOT™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Voyager Communications, Inc. SPAWN™and its logo are trademark and copyright©1993 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. WILDC.A.T.S™ is trademark and copyright© 1993 Aegis Entertainment, Inc. THE SAVAGE DRAGON™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Erik Larsen. SHAMAN'S TEARS™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Mike Grell. STORMWATCH™ is trademark and copyright© 1993 Aegis Entertainment, Inc. THE MAXX™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Sam Kieth. SHADOWHAWK ™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Shadowline, Inc. All rights reserved. IMAGE™ logo is copyright© and trademark 1993.

THIS BLOOD'S FOR YOU

INTERVIEW BY

Rob Leifeld discusses DEATHMATE RED

ERIC STEPHENSON

WHY DON'T YOU START OFF BY TELLING US WHO'S GOING TO BE INVOLVED IN YOUR PART OF THE DEATHMATE CROSS-OVER.

DEATHMATE Red is basically a team-up featuring Youngblood and Valiant's Bloodshot character. I'd wanted to pair them up ever since we first started talking about doing an Image/Valiant cross-over and I'm glad its finally coming together. There was actually a point where we were considering a team-up between Prophet and the Eternal Warrior instead, due to the fact that both of those character have pretty large roles in the overall story, but I'm happy that we ended up coming back to Youngblood and Bloodshot.

WILL DEATHMATE RED FEATURE OTHER CHARACTERS FROM THE IMAGE AND VALIANT UNIVERSES?

Oh yeah, definitely. Even though we didn't go

with the Prophet/Eternal Warrior team-up as the overall theme of Deathmate Red, both of those characters are still featured in the story and they'll be coming into contact with a lot of characters, some of them from Image, some from Valiant.

The main thrust of the story is that Prophet and Kirby team-up with the Eternal Warrior and the Geomancer after learning about the distortion of realities caused by the bonding of Solar and Void (of Wild C.A.T.S) in the Deathmate prologue. Along the way, they hook up with Chapel - who's not a member of Youngblood in the Deathmate universe - and form a strike force to oppose Youngblood, who serves under Harada in this universe. Bloodshot's brought into the picture as the newest member of the team.

CAN YOU GIVE US ANY HINTS AS TO HOW THE STORY'S FINALLY RESOLVED?

Well, in terms of the big picture, I think it's pretty safe to say there won't be a Deathmate universe at the end of the cross-over, but how we reach that point and exactly what part my story plays in the cross-over's resolution is one of those things you'll have to find out about when you read it. I will tell you, though, that Supreme is involved in the story's outcome.

BESIDES YOURSELF, WHO'S WORKING ON DEATHMATE RED?

The creative team is going to be pretty much the same as on the Youngblood series. I'll be handling the writing chores and I'll be penciling half of the story. The second half of the story is going to be penciled by Travis Charest. He's coming to Image off the strength of his work on DC's Darkstars and I think people are really going to get a kick out of his stuff on Deathmate. As for the rest of the team, Danny Miki will be inking the book and Steve Oliff and the guys up at Olyoptics are going to be handling the colors.

WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING WITH THE GUYS AT VALIANT?

They've been great! When we first started pulling the whole project together, Jim Lee and I got together with Steve Massarsky, Bob Layton and Jon Hartz to map the whole thing out and it went really well. I came out of our initial meetings with a real sense of enthusiasm. Since then, everything's flowed really smoothly. When I was in New York with the guys from the studio on the Extreme Tour, Bob invited the group of us up to the Valiant offices and that was a lot of fun. It's been a real blast working with these guys.

WITH DEATHMATE GOING SO WELL, IS THERE A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU'LL BE DOING MORE CROSS-OVERS WITH VALIANT IN THE FUTURE?

That's always a possibility, but at the moment we don't have anything planned along those lines. I guess we'll see when the time comes.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CROSS-OVERS PLANNED OUTSIDE OF DEATHMATE?

Not right away, but I have some other things in the planning stages. There are a lot of characters I'd like to team Youngblood up with eventually. I've said in the past that I'd like to cross-over with everyone from the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to Superman and hopefully, I'll get the chance to do all of those things...it's pretty much just a matter of timing.

DEATHMATE RED: YOUNGBLOOD/ BLOODSHOT #1

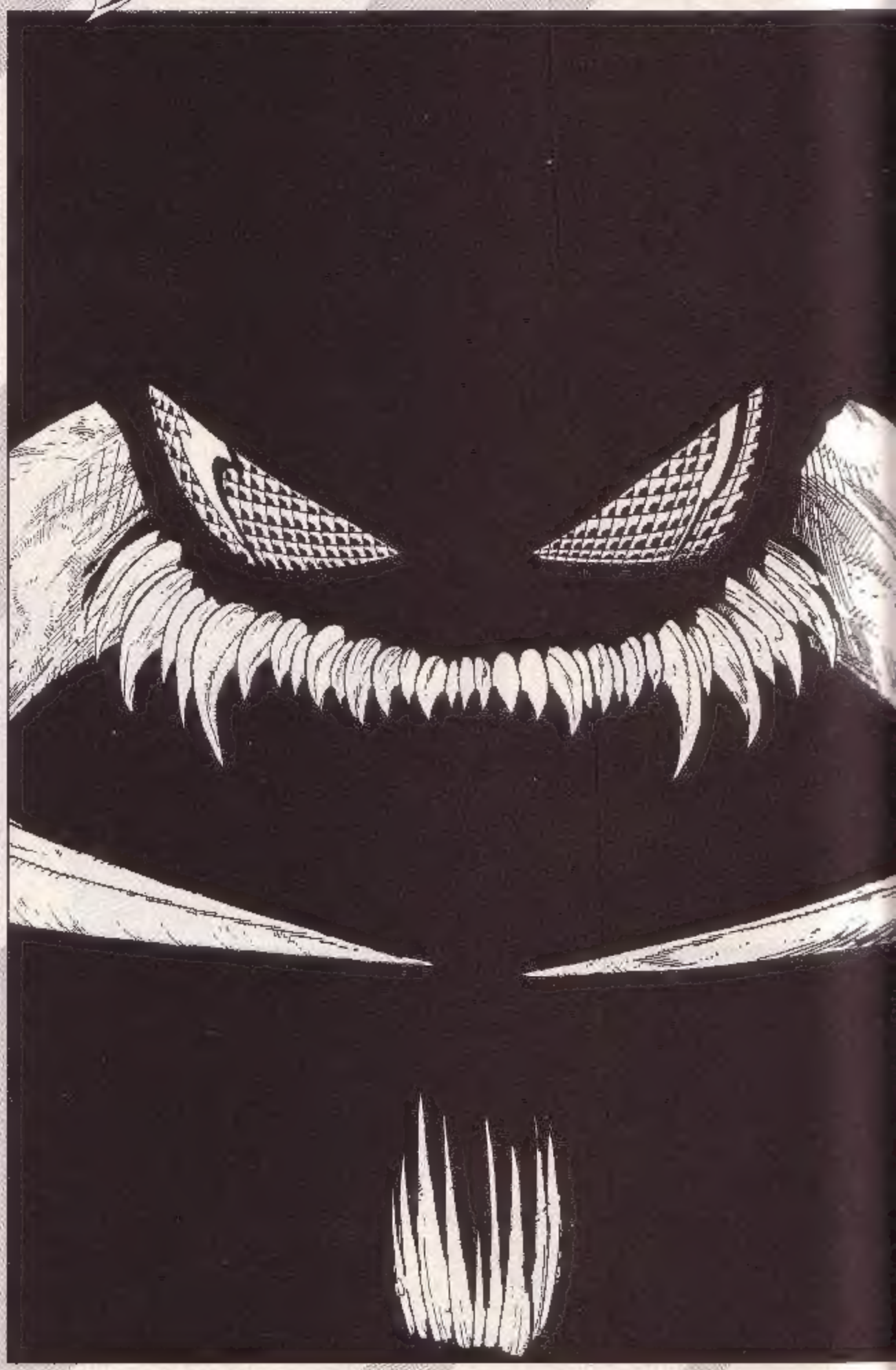
$4.95
Color.
Liefeld/Miki

Special foil-embossed cover.
Prophet enters into a deadly alliance with Chapel and Gilad the Eternal Warrior as they form a strike force to oppose Youngblood and their newest member - Bloodshot! Guest-starring a virtual who's who of characters from both the Image and Valiant universes! Not to be missed!

SPAWN #15

$1.95
Color.
McFarlane

The Violator is back, part II! In the continuation of this dream sequence, the Violator dreams about a past trip to Earth. You'll see why he's called Image's most heinous villain as he inflicts terror on a hoard of evil doers. This story is guaranteed not to warm your heart, but to rip it out! Story by Todd McFarlane.



The following

DAZZLING QUESTIONS

is a very informative

ARE ASKED BY

interview with

TERRY FITZGERALD

Todd McFarlane.

TODD AND TERRY WORK ON THE IMAGE COMIC BOOK SPAWN

Terry: So, we all know about the Critics Choice Writers Series, which is drawing to a close, and we all know about the two issue storyline, "Who Killed Spawn?", (to be featured in Spawn 12 and 13) but what follows?

Todd: Issues number 14 and 15 are a two-part story, where Violator makes his long awaited return! I'm bringing him back as a sort of "arch-enemy" of Spawn. This will be the equivalent of Venom from the 'ole Marvel days.

Terry: Venom from where?

Todd: (laughter)

Terry: And the creative team on these two books will be?

Todd: Me! I'll be writing, penciling and inking, just like before the Writers Series. So I'm back, for good or bad! Of course, Tom Orzechowski and Steve Oliff will be handling the lettering and coloring chores.

Terry: So, any hints on what the story will curtail?

Todd: No.

Terry: Okay...what follows that?

Todd: After these two issues, Violator will spin off to his own three issue miniseries, featuring Spawn #8 writer Alan Moore and illustrator Bart Sears who formerly worked at Valiant on the Turok book. The books will be inked by Mark Penington who has been

inking one of the mutie books over at the big "M" (Marvel).

Terry: So, ex-Valiant and ex-Marvel guys, eh? No company's safe!

Todd: (laughter)...Nope.

Terry: And the big news on Spawn is...

Todd: That's it.

Terry: No, seriously...

Todd: That's it.

Terry: C'mon...

Todd: Okay. The really BIG news from the Spawn world is that I am taking time off to start the first ever DC/Image cross-over with none other than DC's Batman. Bats and the Spawnie, side by side.

Terry: Wow.

Todd: During the cross-over period, which may last as long as three months, Grant Morrison will be writing the Spawn ongoing series. If you remember, Grant wrote the great Arkhum Asylum graphic novel for DC.

Terry: Who will pick up the art chores?

Todd: At this time, I can't divulge the artist's name...for various reasons. Well, I could...but then I would have to kill ya. That would be ugly and I kinda like ya, bud. If I finish the Batman piece quicker than I think, then I'll pick up as the artist and possibly do a short stint of bi-weekly Spawns, to make up for any missed issues.

Terry: Bi-weekly, wow!

Todd: Yeah, but the main thing I want all Spawn fans to know, is that I am NOT abandoning the book. I'll just be taking a short detour from the main road for a couple of months and I promise not to miss the off ramp coming back on track!

Terry: So I guess that will pretty much take us into next year, eh?

Todd: Yeah. Wow...did the year fly by or what?

Terry: Well, I thank you and I'm sure everyone reading this does too.

Todd: Cool bud.

WILD C.A.T.S TRILOGY #2

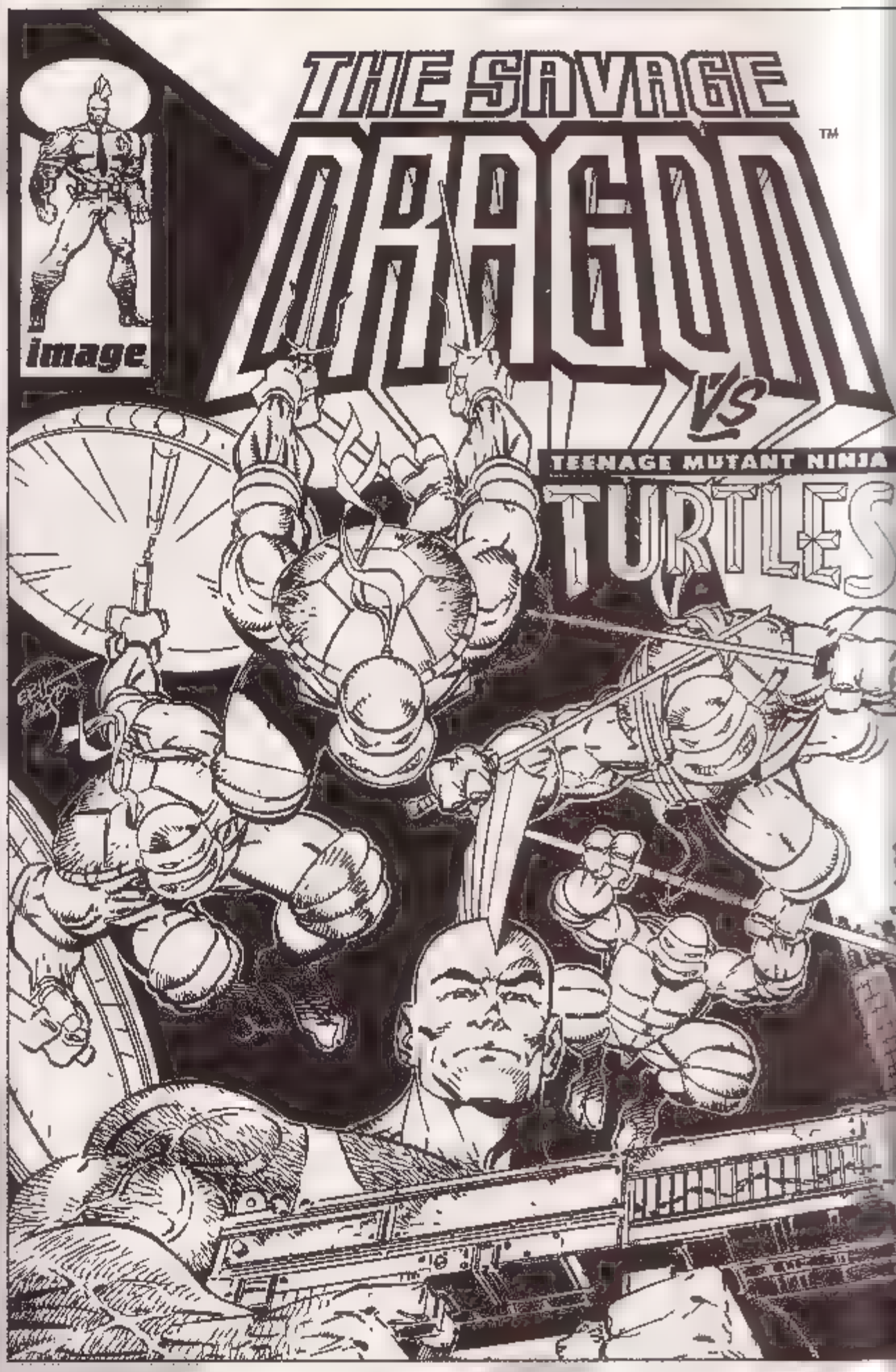
$1.95
Color.
Lee/Wyn/Choi/
Chiodo/Heisler

It is time for the showdown as Zealot must confront Sister Artemis, a fellow Coda Sister from the distant past. This issue provides the fans with the clues to the secret history of the Coda and their deadly Calling. If that weren't enough, the WildC.A.T.S are on their way to try and help their endangered comrades but unfortunately they are not aware of the Cabal operative, Hightower, who lays in wait for them. As for Grifter, he's tired of being used and abused and is looking for some payback! Hold on tight because this ride is only getting faster and wilder!

SAVAGE DRAGON #2

$2.95
Color
Erik Larsen

The Savage Dragon vs. the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles™ is a 48 page explosive action epic! (Part one of two check out Mirage next month!) Introducing Dart, another member of the upcoming Freak Force team! This issue also features a Star solo adventure. The flip side features Vanguard #0 — a special preview of the upcoming monthly block-buster by Gary Carlson, Tomm Coker and Jim Sinclair. With the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles™ Dart, Freak Force, Star, Inferno, and Vanguard #0, THE SAVAGE DRAGON #2 is a must buy!



SHAMAN'S TEARS #3

$1.95
Color.
Grell/Chiodo/
Snoddy/Haynie

It's showdown time as our hero engages the troops over at the top secret Circle Sea complex in an all-out warfare... only to have his powers fail him at the hands of the omnipotent super-group *Bad Sinister*. To defeat his enemy, he must first create an alliance with his mad blood brother *Animus* — but Animus is trying to kill him... It's no wonder that even Mike Grell doesn't have the guts to call this one. "Please Don't Squeeze the Shaman!"

STORMWATCH #4

$1.95
Color:
Lee/Choi/Chiodo/
Booth/Heisler

After the battle with *Regent, Battalion* and his team returns to SkyWatch for some well-deserved R&R. Meanwhile, his younger brother, Malcolm, begins his StormWatch training with one of the team's living legends, *Backlash*! However, all is not well, as certain mysterious intruders infiltrate into SkyWatch's inner sanctum and threaten the security of the *WarGuard*!

MAXX #5

$1.95
Color:
Sam Kieth

MAXX goes at it again and battles the bad guys who... well, why should we spoil all the fun? You'll see when you pick up this most exciting issue of THE MAXX!

SHADOWHAWK POSTER #1

$4.95
Color:
Valentino/Wolf

The first image poster we have and they're hot! Measuring a big 22" x 34", printed on heavy gloss stock, these durable, full color posters are individually shrink-wrapped and suitable for framing.

Check out the blood-splattered image of Shadowhawk himself rendered by Jim Valentino and inked by Chondra Wolf. This dynamic poster is guaranteed to send chills up every image fan's spine!

Distributors: Packed in boxes of 100. Wholesale discount rate is 55% off retail price.

SHADOWHAWK/ SAVAGE DRAGON POSTER #1

$4.95
Color,
Valentino/Larsen

This full color poster also measures a large 22" x 34" is printed on heavy gloss stock and individually shrink wrapped for framing.

Meet the dynamic image of the Savage Dragon battling Shadowhawk! This heart-stopping piece, from the cover of Shadowhawk #4 was penciled by Jim Valentino and inked by Erik Larsen. It's guaranteed to add class to any wall it graces!

Distributors: Packed in cases of 100. Wholesale discount rate is 55% off retail price.

C/O Image Comics, P.O. Box 25468
Anaheim, California 92825

Dear Image,

I've been collecting comics for almost 13 years now, and not once have I written a fan letter to a comic company...until now. Before Image Comics came around, I had been buying next to nothing due to the lack of interesting stories and new titles. Like being knocked upside the head, though, here came Image Comics with all kinds of great stories, art, characters, and concepts. For me, personally, Image Comics has to be the greatest thing to happen to the comic industry in a long time. It has been well overdue. I would like to say that your magazine, *Inside Image*, has been a great source of info on all the new and up-and-coming Image books. Could you please send me information on how to get a subscription to *Inside Image*?

John Kerr
Lake Wales, FL

Thanks John. There's nothing like a good knock upside the head, huh? We're glad to hear that you've enjoyed Inside Image. Your local comic book store is basically the only place to get it right now. And, as you can see, it doesn't have a cover price at this time. We don't sell subscriptions to Inside Image. Who knows? Something may change. Check with your favorite store at a later date.

Dear Image,

Image and Valiant are the visionaries of the comics magazine world, the future of comics is definitely you. The cross-over that you two have planned is bound to be the hottest idea ever conceived. To true readers and fans it should also be the best sales booster (not counting the death and rebirth of Superman - it's much too much hype and commercialism). I look forward to this awesome piece of work and hope it will become a mainstay idea. The combination of the two universes would allow for a very different view of our favorite heroes from both companies. I encourage you to continue it for the uniqueness, if not for the popularity of the idea.

Robert James Beachler
Tempe, AR

Robert, you probably know by now that we are featuring the Image/Valiant cross-over in this issue of Inside Image! Thank you for your positive feedback. We <u>are</u> pretty pumped about the Image/Valiant cross-over event! Also, be sure and read the article on Todd McFarlane and Spawn in this issue. You may find some interesting news on another cross-over project in the works.

Dear Image,

I want to thank every last one of you for the enjoyment and inspiration that you have provided for me over the last year. At the age of 22, I never thought that I would be as excited over comics as when I was younger. Although I am not an artist, I hope to do some type of writing in my life, hopefully in the comic industry. I didn't want to address this letter to anyone in particular due to the fact that every one of you do extraordinary work, and to thank just one wouldn't be fair.

Jon Sherman
Lindenwold, NJ

(continued next page)

(continued from previous page)

Wow! Well, Jon, hold on to your dream of being a writer. At Image Comics, we really do believe that dreams come true!

Dear Image,

Yesterday, my three sons worked at a comic book convention in Toronto. They shared a table and sold some of their comics and cards. I must tell you that I was very impressed by the courtesy, dedication, diligence and good humor of both of the Image artists who attended this convention. My youngest son spent an hour waiting in line and when he got to the front, both artists signed his book and a souvenir book for him. My two older sons and I have been walking on Cloud Nine since they all got autographed books. I am very pleased that your representatives could take the time to be at the show and be such goodwill ambassadors for Image Comics. Keep up the good work and thanks for giving my children some good memories as well as these great souvenirs

Sam Kohn
Ontario, Canada

Thanks for your letter, Sam! We enjoy a lot of these conventions as much as you do. It's good to get with the fans and hear straight from them. Just wanna say hi to Michael, Daniel, and Jonathan. Keep on readin' guys!

Dear Image,

The artwork and imagination throughout your comics is wonderful with such great detail and the authors of your comics are very talented. I have enclosed a little token of my appreciation towards Image Comics. Thank you for your time and great comics.

Scott Franco
Bristol, RI

Cool! We just had to show everyone your beautiful certificate. Thanks Scott! Your compliment is accepted!

Dear Image,

I was wondering if you can give me the address of somewhere that I could write to Todd McFarlane. If you could, I would appreciate it very much. Also I wanted to know if I could subscribe to Image Comics?

Phil Rynda
Medford, NJ

Phil, my man, all fan mail should be sent directly to Image's P. O. Box 25468, Anaheim, CA 92825. We don't have a subscription service for our books because comic book stores are our sales force. Your local retailer should have a good supply of Image books— if they have a clue about comics.

Correction:
The June issue of Inside Image inadvertantly listed copyright information for UNION in error. The information should have read: UNION™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Aegis Entertainment, Inc.

DEATHMATE

THEIR LOVE WILL END ALL TIME!

- Bob Layton
- Jim Lee
- Rob Liefeld
- Joe Quesada
- Marc Silvestri
- Scott Williams
- Barry Windsor-Smith
- and many more!

Six Deluxe Books Shipping Throughout the Summer.

VALIANT

image

THE BIGGEST CROSS-OVER EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF COMICS!!

Publishing Company, Inc.
©1993 Aegis Ent., Inc. All R
CLAW & all C
Liefeld

YOUNGBLOOD™

BLOODSHOT

YOUNGBLOOD TM & Copyright © 1993 Rob Liefeld. BLOODSHOT TM & Copyright © 1993 Voyager Communications, Inc.

THIS BLOOD'S FOR YOU!

JULY '93

DEATHMATE

THE TOUR TO END ALL TIME!

VALIANT

image

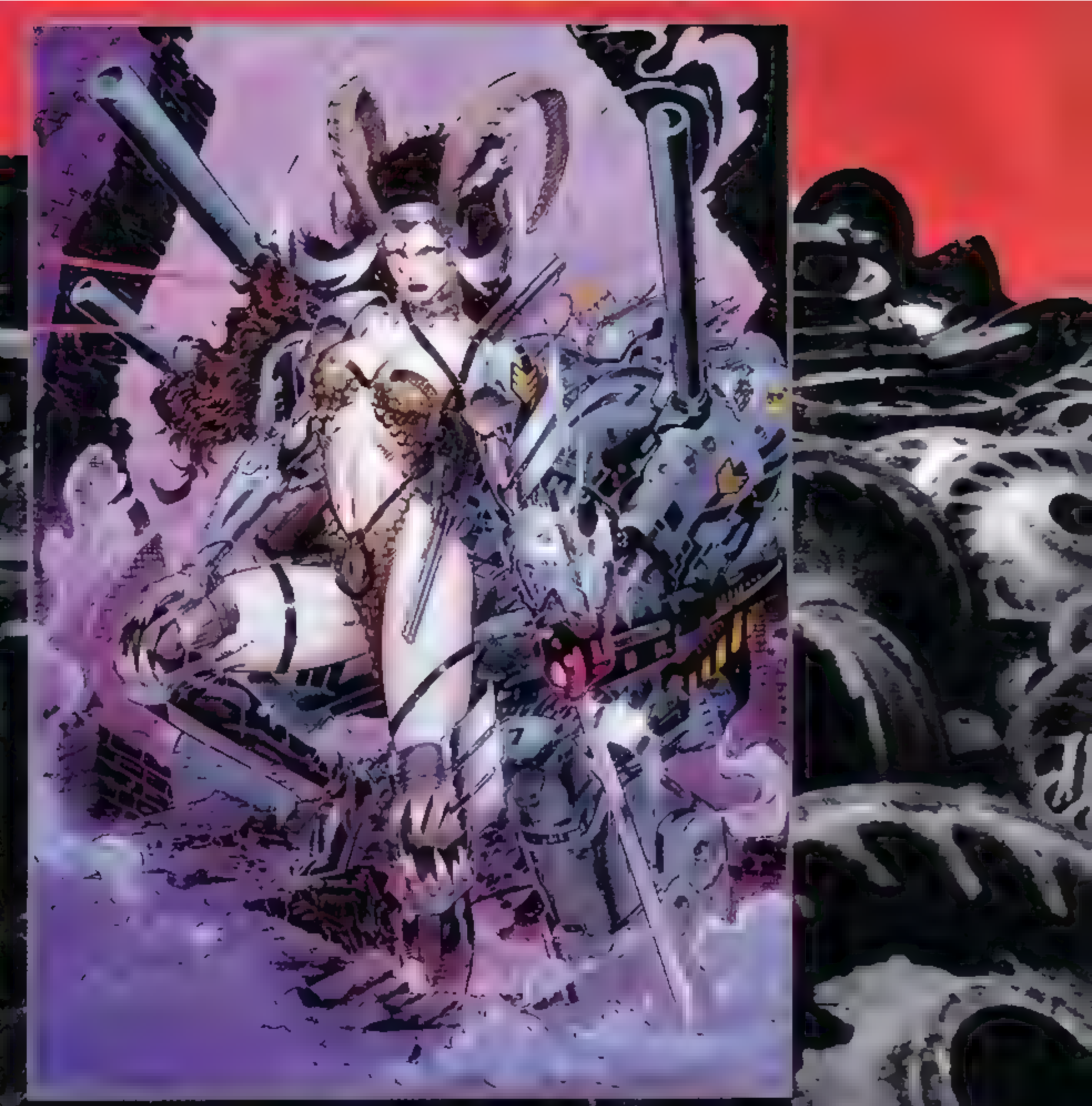
DEATHMATE ™ & © Image & Voyager Communications, Inc.

INSIDE IMAGE

JULY 1993
ISSUE #5

IMAGE

Their Love Will End All Time!



CYBERNARY

Image

FEATURED IN DEATHBLOW #1

BY NICK MANABAT

INSIDE JULY

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR P. 2

INTERVIEW:
DEATHMATE BLACK: JIM LEE
P. 3-4

INTERVIEW:
BRIGADE #0: JEFF MATSUDA
P. 6-7

TITLES FROM JULY 1993:
DEATHMATE BLACK #1 P. 5
BRIGADE #0 P. 8
UNION #2 P. 9
TRENCHER #3 P. 10
BLOODSTRIKE #4 P. 11
1963 #4 P. 12
TRIBE #5 P. 13
DOOM'S IV #2 P. 14

Cover Illustration:
Penciled by Jim Lee; Inks by Bob Layton;
Color by Mike Cavallaro

Editor: Tony Lobito
Production Manager
Marika Bristol
Production Coordinator
Kelly Van Landingham

Inside Image is published monthly by Image Comics, P. O. Box 25468 Anaheim, CA 92825

Designed and produced by Kathy Murray

BRIGADE™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Rob Liefeld. UNION™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Aegis Entertainment, Inc. TRENCHER™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Keith Giffen. BLOODSTRIKE™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Rob Liefeld. 1963™ is trademark and copyright© 1993 Alan Moore, Steve Bissette and Rick Veitch. TRIBE™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Larry Stroman and Todd Johnson. DOOM'S IV™ is trademark and copyright©1993 Rob Liefeld. IMAGE™ is trademark and copyright©1993. SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM© 1993 Western Publishing Company, Inc. & Voyager Communications Inc. & ™ Western Publishing Company, Inc. BLOODSHOT, X-O MANOWAR, ARMSTRONG, SHAKESPEARE & all Valiant characters ™ & © 1993 Voyager Communications Inc. VOID & all WildC.A.T.S. characters™ & © 1993 Aegis Ent., Inc. RIPCLAW & all Cyberforce characters ™ & © 1993 Top Cow Productions. PROPHET & all Youngblood characters ™ & © 1993 Rob Liefeld. BATTLESTONE & all Brigade characters ™ & © 1993 Rob Liefeld. Deathmate logo™ and © 1993 Voyager Communications Inc.

DOT YOUR I AND CROSS YOUR T'S...

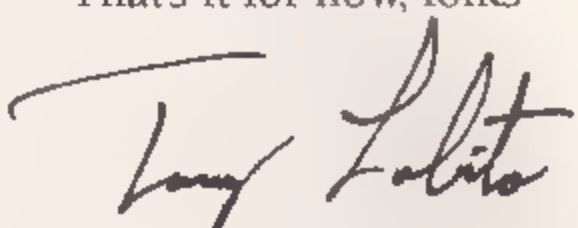
Hello again, Image fans!

Just in case you hadn't noticed already, July marks the release of *Deathmate*, the big cross-over extravanganza we're doing in conjunction with Valiant Comics. Since we've got interviews with both Rob Liefeld (*Deathmate Red*) and Jim Lee (*Deathmate Black*) later on in this issue, I won't go into all the particulars, but I will tell you that we're absolutely estatic about how smoothly things have gone between the folks at Valiant and the gang right here at Image Central. This project has been a lot of fun for everyone involved and we can't wait for the books to actually hit the stands so all of you can join in on the fun as well!

And that's just for starters! In addition to the *Deathmate* cross-over, there's also *Savage Dragon* #2, featuring a first-ever cross-over between everyone's favorite fin-head and a certain group of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles that you might want to look into. Plus, Todd McFarlane gives us the low down on Spawn's future plans, Supreme makes a guest appearance in *Trencher #3* that you won't want to miss and then there's *Brigade #0*, featuring...well, you get the idea.

All in all, July's shaping up to look like one of this summer's hottest months and that's just the way we like it! On a lighter note, though, I also wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that amidst all of the action and excitement here at Image Comics, your likes and dislikes are important to us. More succinctly - *you matter!* If you have something to say about how we're handling things, please don't hesitate to let us know how you feel. We read each and every letter and card we receive and your input is *always* appreciated!

That's it for now, folks!



Tony Lobito
Publisher/Editor

DEATHMATE BLACK

BY RUTH GRICE

INTERVIEW WITH JIM LEE

TELL ME HOW YOU GOT INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT.

Basically, Rob Liefeld and I were itching to set up a big summer event — something other than your ordinary run-of-the-mill polybagged 45 part story. I know both of us were big fans of the Marvel-DC cross-overs from years past, and this was our chance to recreate the same magic for today's generation of readers.

We had approached some larger companies about cross-overs earlier, but that got caught in bureaucratic tape and never seemed to get off the ground.

WHY VALIANT?

I got a chance to meet with Steve Massarsky last year at the Capital City retailers conference and we struck up a rapport. Image and Valiant each had huge, pivotal successes in '92, and it just seemed logical that the two companies with the most heat and momentum would join forces to show the other companies how its done.

It's about who's on the cutting edge—who's got the

imagination, the energy to take comics to the next level—and who's going to be the leader of this industry and take it boldly into the 90's. Valiant puts out strong stories with tight continuity and has shown a lot of naysayers that it can succeed in the superhero market as has Image. It seemed like a natural match.

WHAT IS DEATHMATE?

It's what happens when Void from the Image universe meets Dark Solar from the Valiant universe Their love or lust for one another creates this gigantic ripple in reality, bringing about a melding of the Image and Valiant universes. Imagine two twines of rope representing the two distinct timeline-continuities of the two universes coming together and wrapping themselves into one.

But not all is as it once was in this combined universe. Heroes are now villains and villains, heroes. This Deathmate universe is dark and patterned along the lines of Brave New World and Bladerunner and is set to self-destruct. Geoff the Geomancer, Prophet and Ripclaw know that this ripple will destroy all in its path as it speeds backward through time in the Deathmate universe.

WHAT IS YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CROSS-OVER?

Well, I was involved in the concept and plotting of the whole story with Rob Liefeld and Bob Layton. I'm inking Barry Windsor-Smith's layouts in the prologue. That's been a blast so far—he's a tremendous artist whom I greatly admire. His Archer and Armstrong is by far the best comic on the stands and is my personal favorite.

Marc Silvestri and I plotted Deathmate Black, which is one of the four prestige format books which comprise the guts of the story. It involves Maul, Emp, Ripclaw, Turok, X-O Man Of War, Mother May I, and Warblade. It also introduces Lord Fate who'll be important in the Image universe after Deathmate is resolved.

Deathmate Black's essentially a story about choices gone bad, of a future tarnished by greed and blind ambition. Essentially, Ripclaw starts out as a state enforcer, who comes to understand through his power, that all is not right in the Deathmate universe. He goes about assembling a ragtag team of former heroes and outcasts to attempt a virtual suicide mission to 1) overthrow the existing power structure and 2) avert Deathmate from ever happening. It's a dark storyline and should be a real pleaser to both Image and Valiant fans!

DEATHMATE BLACK: WILDC.A.T.S/ HARD CORPS #1

$4.95
Color:
Lee/Silvestri/Booth/ Scott/Choi/Chiodo/ Heisler

All is not as it should be. The Earth has become a colder and darker place. JACOB MARLOWE is no longer a successful financier but one of the most powerful rulers of the Western Hemisphere with WILDCORE as his enforcers. Yet, it is Jacob who realizes that things are awry and he must decide if Earth's greatest heroes will be sent to stop the DEATHMATE before the Universe ceases to exist. Featuring WARBLADE, RIPCLAW, TUROK and X-O MANOWAR, this issue is sure to be red hot!

JEFF MATSUDA: BRIGA

BY RON RITTE

TO BEGIN WITH, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE US A BRIEF RUN DOWN OF HOW YOU HOOKED UP WITH EXTREME STUDIOS AND IMAGE COMICS.

Well, there's not a lot to tell really. I've been a big comics fan for awhile and I've always wanted to draw comics, but I guess the real turning point for me came when I ended up sending samples to Extreme Studios and a couple of days later I got a call from Rob asking me to do some work for him. At first, I just did a pin-up, but after that Rob asked me to come out to California and check out the studio and once I got there, I ended up drawing Youngblood·Strikefile #4.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THAT?

Basically, it's the continuation of a story begun in Spawn numbers 6 & 7 because it features this cyborg assassin called Overtkill. At the end of the Spawn story, Overtkill was pretty much left for dead, but when we open things up in Youngblood: Strikefile #4, we see that he's been taken into the custody of the U.S. government. They've completely rebuilt him and are in the process of retooling his memory banks so that he's under their control. Of course, something goes wrong along the way, which leads to a major confrontation between Youngblood and Overtkill. We won't be seeing the whole Youngblood team, though; it's just Bedrock, Shaft and Die Hard - with a lot of emphasis on Bedrock. It's a fun little story.

RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, YOU'RE WORKING ON BRIGADE #0. HOW'S THAT GOING?

Pretty good, actually. Since I'm not tied down to a regular book yet, I have the luxury of being able to draw a pretty wide variety of characters. First it was Shaft, Bedrock and Die Hard and now it's Battlestone, Boone and Lethal from Brigade.

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE US A LITTLE BIT OF BACKGROUND ON THE STORY BEHIND BRIGADE #0.

Sure. Continuity-wise, the story starts just after the events of Youngblood #0. Battlestone has been kicked out of the Youngblood program and is making it on his own as a sort of freelance mercenary. The story opens with Battlestone and two other mercs, Boone and Lethal, on a mission in Japan. The mission goes extremely well and as a result, Battlestone winds up entering into a contract with Emp from WildCATS. Emp outlines the mission he's got planned for Battlestone and his crew, warning them that if things go wrong, he'll deny any involvement with them. However, if things go right, they stand to make a mint.

DE #0

Anyway, things go wrong. About halfway through the mission, Battlestone and company run into Youngblood and they get into it pretty heavy. Fans who have been wanting to see Shaft and Battlestone go at it since Youngblood #0 should be pretty happy, because that's exactly what happens here.

YOU MENTIONED BOONE AND LETHAL. ALTHOUGH BOTH OF THEM APPEAR IN THE NEW SERIES, NEITHER OF THEM WERE IN LAST YEAR'S BRIGADE MINI-SERIES...DOES THIS ISSUE EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED WITH THEM IN THE INTERIM?

Pretty much, yeah. Let's just say, they don't stick around after the battle with Youngblood.

BESIDES BATTLESTONE'S FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH YOUNGBLOOD AFTER HIS DEPARTURE, WHAT ELSE CAN WE EXPECT FROM BRIGADE #0?

Well, we get to see how he hooks up with Seahawk and Coldsnap. I think something that a lot of people fail to realize about Brigade is that Seahawk and Coldsnap are the guys who provide all of the financial backing for the team. That's underlined in this issue, as well as in some of the upcoming stories Marat and Eric are doing in the Brigade series.

Getting back to your question, though, we'll basically see the genesis of the Brigade team that appeared in the first issue of the mini-series. Also, we're introducing a new character, created by inker Danny Miki, called Warcry. He'll be making his first appearance in the beginning of the story, the part that's set in Japan.

SO, AFTER BRIGADE #0, WHAT'S NEXT ON YOUR PLATE?

Right now, it looks like I'm going to be doing a Shaft mini-series that will co-star Battlestone and pit him and Shaft against Giger and Cybernet, the villains introduced in Youngblood: Strikefile. After that, who knows.

TO WRAP THINGS UP, WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING AT EXTREME?

I really enjoy being able to work in an environment filled with so much creativity and vitality. I've made a lot of friends since I moved into the studio and that makes all the difference.

BRIGADE #0

$1.95
Color Liefeld/Stephenson/ Matsuda

Bridging the gap between YOUNG BLOOD #0 and the first issue of last year's BRIGADE mini-series, BRIGADE #0 chronicles the sequence of events leading up to the formation of the Brigade team including Battlestone's first confrontation with Youngblood and Shaft! Guest-starring Emp, of Jim Lee's WILDC.A.T.S

UNION #2

1.95
Color.
Heisler/Texeira

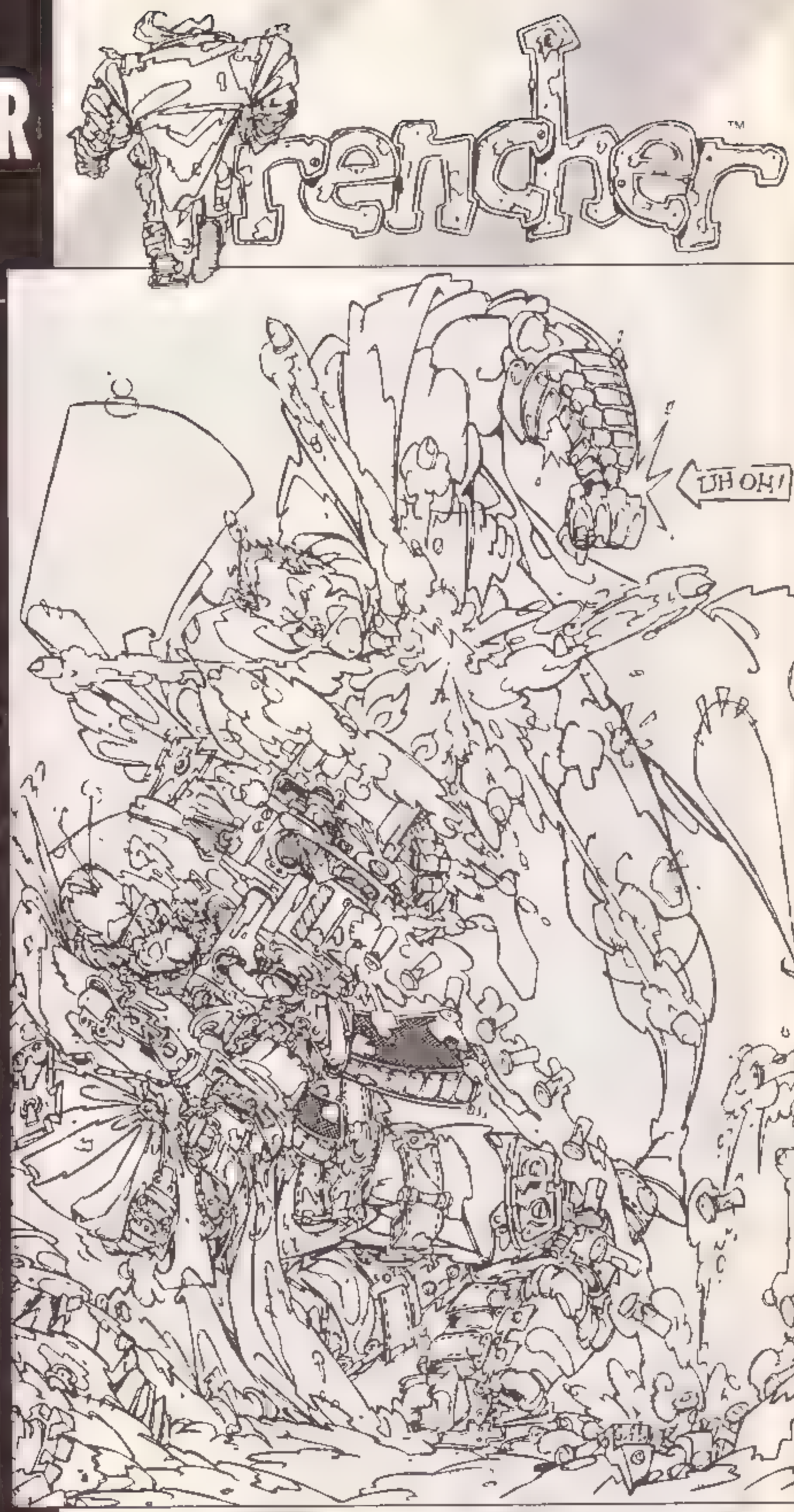
Union and Jill pay a visit to New York City, where Union gets his first true test at becoming a superhero when he encounters the deranged super-speed villain known as The Quickness. Also featuring a brief and totally gratuitous cameo by *Velocity of Cyberforce!*

Union™

TRENCHER #3

$1.95
Color:
Keith Giffen

More reasonably affordable mayhem as Gideon clashes head on with the one and only Supreme! That's right, it's the battle of the receding hairlines when Supreme decides to put Trencher back on that big ol' unemployment line in the sky. You'll never forgive yourself if you miss this one! Come to think of it, neither will we.



BLOODSTRIKE #4

$1.95
Color,
Liefeld/Giffen/
Fraga/Miki

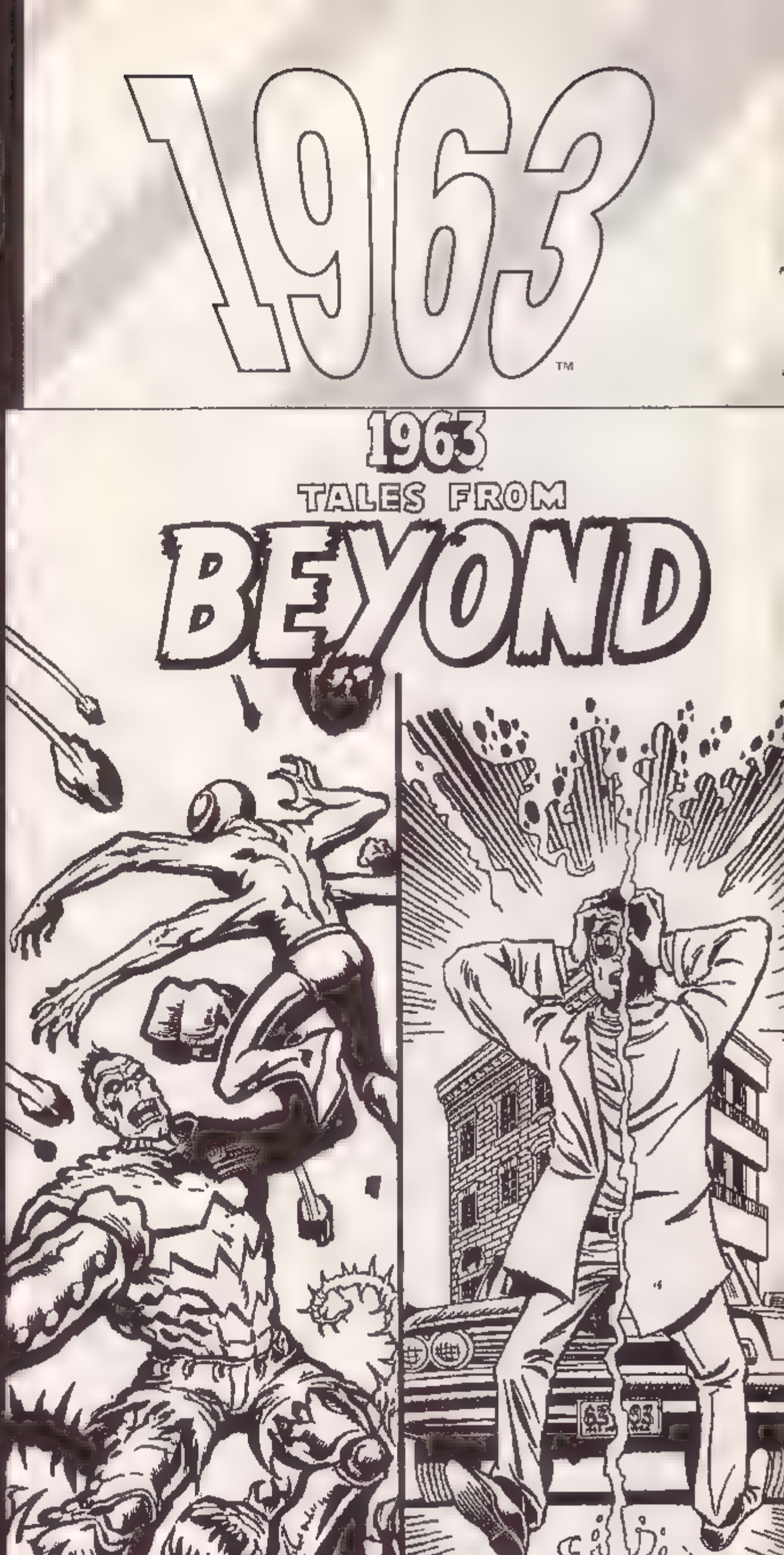
Keith Giffen comes aboard as plotter and layout artist this issue as Bloodstrike returns home to Washington, D.C. in the wake of the Blood Brothers crossover and Deadlock goes solo!

1963 #4

TALES FROM BEYOND

$1.95
Color
Moore/Bissette/
Totleben/Valentino/
Workman

The most anticipated and highly acclaimed series of the year continues with Tales From Beyond! This dynamic double header features the debut of not one, but two all-new characters: the unbelievable N-Man, which reunites the Swamp Thing team supreme of Steve Bissette and John Totleben, and the hippest sorcerer of all, Johnny Beyond, by Image co-founder Jim Valentino. As with all 1963 titles, both stories are written by Alan Moore! Face it, front runners, this one is going to be white hot! Say no more!



TRIBE #5

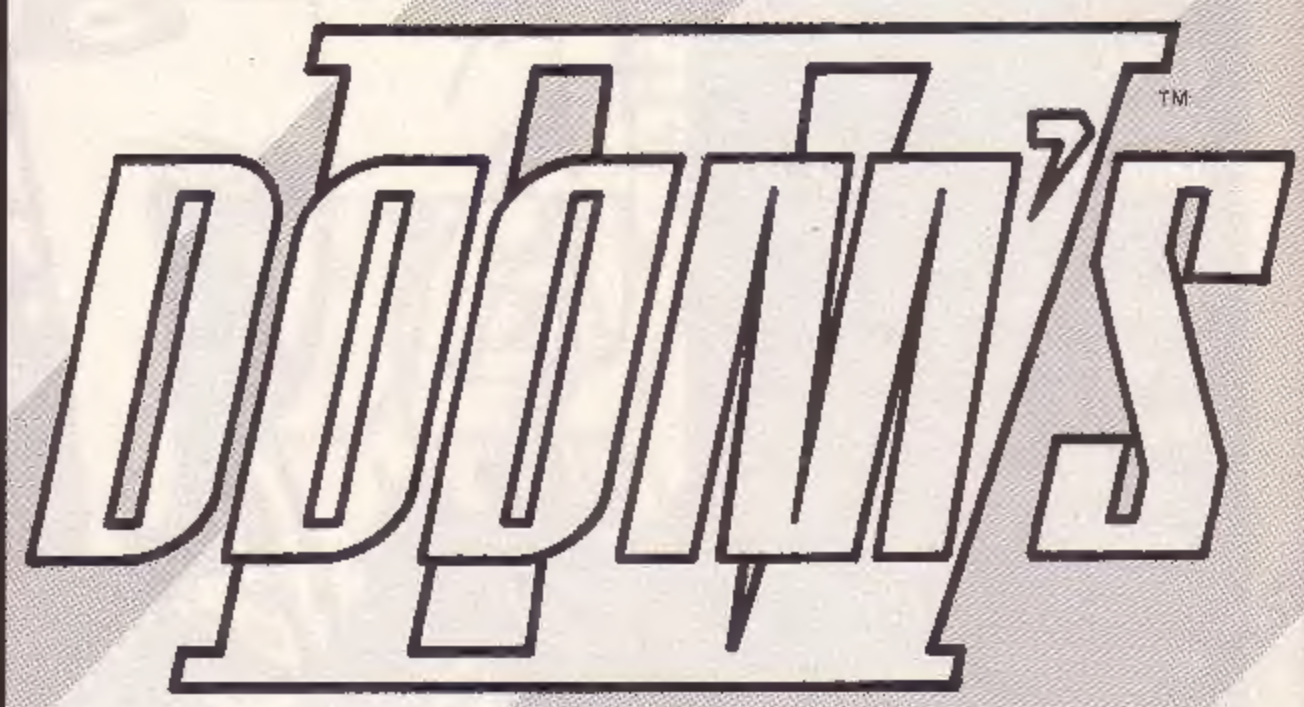
$1.95
Color.
Johnson

Take an exciting turn in a new direction. You have seen the powers of reality, now witness the power of dreams. FIVE EASY STEPS TO GET ANY WOMAN YOU WANT! CRUSH VELVET. Read it and believe it. Also featuring an Image Universe fashion show.

DOOM'S IV #2

$1.95
Color.
Liefeld/Pacella

As Burke prepares to unleash his mutant forces to seek out the Doom's IV survivors, Grimm reveals the secrets of his mysterious past - or does he?



NEW BOOKS

COMING IN AUGUST...

GEN-X & WILDC.A.T.S YEARBOOK
by Jim Lee & Travis Charest

STRYKEFORCE
by Marc Silvestri & Brandon Peterson

SUPERPATRIOT
by Erik Larsen, Keith Giffen & David Johnson

EXTREME
by Rob Liefeld & Extreme Studios

Don't Miss 'em!!

image™

LOOK For image™ AT THE FOLLOWING SHOWS:

June 11-13
New York ComicCon

July 2-4
Chicago Comic Con

July 16-18
Atlanta Dragon Con

August 19-22
San Diego Comic Con

September 17-19
United Kingdom C.A.C.

October 6-11
Philadelphia Comic Fest

image™